

Message Text

MRN: 1974TANANA000016 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE
ADP000
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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-25 INRE-00

SSO-00 CCO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03

OC-06 COME-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 /122 W
----- 039965

O 070830Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5902
INFO NASA HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 TANANARIVE 0016

LAND. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GO BACK TO CONGRESS AND ASK FOR
ANYTHING LIKE \$9 MILLION FOR RENT WE COULD NEVER LEGALLY JUSTIFY
AS HAVING BEEN OWED.

7. FONMIN REP THEN RETURNED TO SUBJECT OF JUST HOW MUCH USG
WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY, LEGAL PRINCIPLES ASIDE. HE ADMITTED
FIGURE OF 2000 FMG (\$9.00) PER HA/YR HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY
MALAGASY AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND ALSO BY MINISTER OF
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ANDRIAMAHAZO DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT
THERE. BUT THESE WERE PURELY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, HE REMINDED,
AND SAID GOMR COULD NOT POSSIBLY ACCEPT SUCH LOW FIGURE BASED ON
RURAL USE OF LAND BY MALAGASY PEASANTS. RENTS IN MADAGASCAR, HE
INSISTED, ARE DETERMINED BY FUNCTIONS OF INSTALLATIONS AND CITED
CASES OF RENTALS IN PORT AREAS AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES.

8. DECIDING TIME WAS THEN RIPE TO DRAW ON STATE 235709, PARA D
(SEE TANANARIVE 1688, PARA 6), DCM STATES THAT IF GOMR PRICE
REMAINS TOO HIGH -- AND FIGURE OF 200 MILLION FMG (\$900,000)
DURING EACH YEAR OF PAST OCCUPANCY AND IN FUTURE YEARS IS
CERTAINLY THAT -- THEN NASA WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT CAN
AFFORT TO STAY IN MADAGASCAR. IF IT DECIDES TO GO, LOSER WOULD
NOT JUST BE NASA BUT INTIRE WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WHICH
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DRAWS ON DATA COLLECTED IN MADAGASCAR. (COMMENT: GOMR SIDE TOOK CAREFUL NOTE THAT COMMENT.)

9. FONMIN REP THEN ASKED DCM TO REPORT GOMR'S POSITIONS URGENTLY TO WASHINGTON: (1) MAINTENANCE OF LEGAL POSITION ON ARREARS; (2) WILLINGNESS, NEVERTHELESS, TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AMOUNTS TO BE PAID, BASED BOTH ON "MALAGASY SOVEREIGNTY" AND NASA'S APPRAISAL OF HOW MUCH IT CAN AFFORD TO KEEP STATION OPERATING IN MADAGASCAR. HE AMPLIFIED BY SAYING GOMR REALIZES NASA HAS LIMITS TO WHAT IT CAN PAY, BUT GOMR WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COMPLETELY "HONEST" ANSWER ON WHAT THOSE LIMITS ARE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE COULD NOT IMAGINE AMOUNTS CLAIMED BY GOMR WOULD "SCARE" NASA.

10. FONMIN REP THEN SAID, "WE CAN POSSIBLY LIGHTEN OUR FIGURE, BUT WE ARE NOT RUG MERCHANTS." HE THEN STATED MOST CLEARLY THAT IF GOMR AND NASA CANNOT REACH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FIGURE, BOTH SIDES CAN AGREE TO CANCEL ACCORD "WITHOUT BAD FEELINGS."

11. CHANGING SUBJECT, FONMIN REP SAID GOMR AND USG APPARENTLY IN AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLE OF NASA CONTRACT WITH MALAGASY POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO ASSUME BENDIX'S RESPONSIBILITIES. HE SAID IF BASIC NASA AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON AMOUNTS DUE FOR PAST AND FUTURE, GOMR FORESEES WORKING OUT NASA/P&T RELATIONSHIP IN SEPARATE CONTRACT. DCM SAID DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT USG AGREES IT WOULD BE BEST TO LEAVE MEANS OF MALAGASIZATION TO SEPARATE CONTRACT, THEN ADDED, CLAUSE COVERING GOAL OF MALAGASIZATION COULD BE INCLUDED IN NEW BASIC AGREEMENT IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GOMR.

12. DCM PROMISED TO REPORT MALAGASY POSITION PROMPTLY TO USG. FONMIN REP SUGGESTED NEXT SESSION BE HELD JANUARY 10 AT 0900 LOCAL AT WHICH TIME GOMR WOULD HOPE TO HAVE NASA'S FINAL FINANCIAL OFFER. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF USG SIDE WAS NOT READY TO MEET WITH GOMR SIDE FOR THAT PURPOSE BY MORNING JAN 10, GOMR WOULD BE WILLING TO POSTPONE MEETING UNTIL LATEST USG POSITION HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO EMBASSY. DCM AGREED TO MEETING MORNING JAN 10, BUT POINTED OUT IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE LONGER TO REACH AGREED POSITION IN WASHINGTON. MEETING CLOSED WITH RENEWED STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY POSITION CAN BE REACHED.

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13. TO HELP WASHINGTON EVALUATE SERIOUSNESS OF GOMR'S WILLINGNESS TO SEE NASA STATION CLOSE DOWN, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WORTHWHILE TO GIVE TWO SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF JANUARY 3 MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ANDRIAMAHAZO AND SEVERAL SENIOR NASA MALAGASY EMPLOYEES.

(A) EVENING TELEVISION NEWS JANUARY 3 AND MORNING PRESS JAN 4

GAVE PROMINENT AND ON WHOLE HELPFUL COVERAGE TO MEETING, PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS PURPORTEDLY "TO BRING NASA EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC OPINION UP TO DATE" ON STATUS OF USG-GOMR NEGOTIATIONS. ANDRIAMAHAZO REPORTEDLY STATED NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY REQUIRES THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT SUCCEED, GOMR WILL HAVE TO TERMINATE NASA ACTIVITIES IN MADAGASCAR, BUT GOVT HOPES "ARDENTLY" FOR HAPPY AND POSITIVE CULMINATION TO NEGOTIATIONS. HE SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS OF INCREASED M*LAGAS ZATION AND FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES, AS REGARDS STATION, OF DIRECTORATE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNDER HIS MINISTRY. HE POINTED OUT MALAGASIZATION PROGRAM HAD FOLLOWED NORMAL EVOLUTION SINCE OPENING OF STATION, BUT MORE AMPLE TRAINING WILL BE NECESSARY IF NEW AGREEMENT IS REACHED. TENOR OF COVERAGE WAS THUS*POSITIVE. (B) HOWEVER, FROM NASA STATION DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSIONS MORNING JAN 4 WITH ONE OF EMPLOYEES WHO ATTENDED MEETING, IT SEEMED ANDRIAMAHAZO TOLD THEM THEY SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THERE IS "RUPTURE" IN NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THEY SHOULD ALREADY TELL OTHER MALAGAEY EMPLOYEES OF NASA TO START LOOKING FOR OTHER JOBS. (COMMENT: MORALE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES AT STATION IS ALREADY NOTICEABLY AFFECTED BY COLLEAGUE'S ACCOUNT OF MEETING WITH ANDRIAMAHA O.)

14. EMBASSY CONCLUSIONS:

(A) GOMR SEEMS DEFINITELY WILLING TO LOWER SIGHTS ON AMOUNT IT CAN EXTRACT, BUT WE BELIEVE WE ILL HAVE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE GENEROUS OFFER THAN WE HAVE TO DATE TO COUNTER GOMR'S STRONG CONVICTION THAT USG HAS BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF

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MRN: 1974TANANA000016 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000003 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRACKING STATIONS, DEBT REPAYMENTS, RENTS, GOVERNMENT DEBTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: TANANARIVE
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